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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to add my comments to the proposed Microsoft Settlement. I am a person who has been heavily involved ever since the mid 1950s with application software development, and am a current user of Microsoft's PC software.

I urge acceptance and implementation of the settlement and an immediate end to the associated litigation.

From my experience as a user of software products over almost 50 years, I am convinced that Microsoft has brought far more benefits to mass market PC consumers than has any other software company.

Microsoft has been a major force for simplifying products, reducing prices, and bringing order out of chaos in a field where techie, user-unfriendly, expensive products and services run rampant. Microsoft simply understands better than its competitors do what the average consumer wants and needs, and how to satisfy those needs at low cost. The average consumer can use Microsoft's products more easily - without expensive consulting help - than the usually more expensive products of other vendors needed to accomplish the same result.

Throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, computer users spent far more to develop and maintain their software than to buy and maintain their computer hardware. When the PC arrived, it dramatically reduced computer hardware costs. One would have expected the relationship between user software and hardware costs to become even more heavily weighted toward software costs. But thanks almost entirely to Microsoft, the exact reverse happened. Software - both operating systems and applications - now cost much less than PC hardware. This is so in spite of the fact the absolute cost of PC hardware keeps dropping at a delightfully rapid rate.

Those who assert that Microsoft's actions have damaged consumers are simply dead wrong. No such damage has occurred or is likely to occur. Quite to the contrary, enormous consumer benefit has resulted. Microsoft is a leading pro-consumer company of our age.

It is with great angst that I have observed federal and state litigation against Microsoft in recent years. There are many who, for their private reasons, would wish this litigation to succeed. But had it succeeded in its original form, it would have severely limited the extent to which Microsoft could further improve its products. That would be extremely hostile to consumer public interests. It would mean that consumers would be forced to deal with more software vendors, pay for more for their software products,

and endure costs and frustration of having to coordinate among multiple software vendors. Please, do not let this happen.

It is time to end this litigation madness now. The Court should approve the Microsoft Settlement and deny all efforts to expand the scope of the Settlement.

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